



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO. : 10/026,301 CONFIRMATION NO. 8087
APPLICANT : De Billot *et al.*
FILED: : December 19, 2001
TC/A.U. : 1616
EXAMINER : Alton N. Pryor
DOCKET NO. : 17396/09015
CUSTOMER NO. : n/a

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR §1.114

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This paper is filed in response to the Office Action of February 26, 2004, and the Advisory Action dated June 3, 2004, and is intended to address each and every issue that was raised in the Final Action. It is being filed concurrently with a Request for Continued Prosecution and is believed to be timely with respect to the period for response to the Advisory Action that was set for response in that Action in view of the Petition for an Extension of Time under 37 CFR §1.136 and the check for a one-month extension of time that are enclosed herewith.

There are no **Amendments to the Specification.**

Amendments to the claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

There are no **Amendments to the Drawings.**

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 39 of this paper.